

NEWS RELEASE

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Quincy Man Charged with Meth Manufacturing and Distribution Conspiracy

Springfield, IL - Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that a federal grand jury has returned an indictment charging Tracy Smith, age 34, of Quincy, Illinois with conspiring with others to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine beginning in mid-2002 and continuing on various occasions and with numerous other individuals until June 2006.

The indictment alleges that Smith conspired with at least eight others on numerous occasions to cook methamphetamine in various locations in Quincy and Adams county communities. The indictment details several occasions when Smith and others traveled to Chicago, the Quad City area, and Ohio to purchase thousands of pseudoephedrine pills which Smith used to make methamphetamine in Quincy.

The indictment alleges Smith served as a meth cook and distributor, conspiring with others, on numerous occasions beginning in June 2002 to June 2004, excluding the period of December 2002 to October 2003; from March 2005 to August 2005; January to February 2006; and from April 6, 2006 to June 7, 2006. Smith allegedly used various acquaintances' properties to cook meth including Quincy locations on Cherry Street; Cheswick Avenue; Wisman Lane; and North 24th Street. Smith also allegedly cooked meth at acquaintances' properties in Mendon, Illinois; Marblehead, Illinois; and on Dabney Street in Loraine, Illinois. As payment for use of their properties, the indictment alleges acquaintances were given meth to sell or use and were sometimes given cash. The acquaintances often assisted with the meth preparation by acquiring meth-making ingredients such as pseudoephedrine pills, batteries, anhydrous ammonia or camper's fuel or by taking steps to mask strong odors resulting from cooking meth.

The charges are the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the West Central Illinois Task Force. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph H. Hartzler.

The five-count indictment includes three counts of conspiring to manufacture and distribute more than 50 grams of actual methamphetamine and more than 500 grams of a mixture containing methamphetamine. If convicted, each carries a mandatory minimum statutory penalty of 10 years to life in prison. If the defendant has a prior felony drug conviction, the mandatory minimum penalty increases to 20 years to life imprisonment. The offense carries a mandatory term of life in prison if the defendant has two prior felony drug convictions.

(More)

Smith is also charged with two counts of conspiracy to manufacture and distribute meth, which has a maximum statutory penalty of up to 20 years in prison; 30 years if the defendant has a prior felony drug conviction.

Smith is currently in the custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections in an unrelated case. Smith will be transported to federal court in Springfield for arraignment on a date to be determined by the U.S. Clerk of the Court.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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